



ISSUE 2

# Suffolk Growth Programme Board

MARCH 2018

## Welcome

This is the second newsletter of the SGPB. It is designed to provide information and updates to all SGPB member organisations about the work of the Board and the outcomes we are looking to deliver. These newsletters will be produced up to 6 times per annum and launched through intranets.

The GPB is chaired by Stephen Baker, Chief Executive of East Suffolk Councils with membership drawn from Suffolk Local Authorities; New Anglia LEP (with GCGP invited to attend); the University of Suffolk and Suffolk Chamber of Commerce. The Suffolk Housing Board has recently joined to reflect the impact housing delivery has on achieving place based growth.

## Role

The role of the Growth Programme Board, as agreed in December 2016, is to:

- i. **lead**: the Suffolk Growth Framework at officer level, and through collaboration across the County ensure GPB outcomes are communicated to all staff and members.
- ii. **deliver**: Suffolk's economic vision and achieve impact through the coordination of programmes and projects directly managed by the GPB and through facilitated work with partners
- iii. **influence** (through engagement): public / private stakeholders, businesses and politicians about the priorities for growth in Suffolk and the opportunities for improving the region's competitive position and prosperity

- iv. **manage risk**: by understanding upcoming risks / unknowns and responding to these through a flexible & innovative approach to economic growth

## Congratulations

The Growth Programme Board congratulates:

- Ipswich Borough Council (IBC) for its successful bid to the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) securing £9.87 million to deliver infrastructure needed to deliver 3,500 homes in the Ipswich Garden Suburb.
- Forest Heath District / St Edmundsbury Borough Councils who led on a joint bid for the Suffolk Local Authorities and secured £300k from MHCLG to develop design and quality guides / training programmes for Suffolk's local plan teams and neighbourhoods. This work is being taken forward in partnership through the Growth Programme Board and will report in March 2019.

It is hoped that through improved joint working across all Suffolk partners we will see an increase in successful bids to national / regional funding programmes and develop a more integrated, outcome focused approach to our investment.

## Current programme of work

A copy of our full work programme is available on request. Recent and upcoming activities include:

- receiving an update on the University of Suffolk's Enterprise and Innovation work and looking to strengthen engagement between the work of economic development officers across Suffolk and the University



- commissioning consultants to support our research into the value of public sector procurement across the Suffolk Public Sector (including NHS and Suffolk Constabulary)
- preparing supporting statements and / or submissions on a Suffolk wide basis to national consultations including:
  - o Department for Transport's Strategic Route Network (SRN) & Major Route Network (MRN)
  - o the Greater London Plan
- research into growth corridors and their applicability to Suffolk. Initial consideration is being given to an East West corridor, stretching from Felixstowe to Newmarket and connecting into the work of the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) on the Oxford – Milton Keynes – Cambridge growth corridor
- working with Heads of Planning and HR Leads to develop a workforce strategy for graduate planners on a joint Suffolk basis
- strengthening our engagement with county skills leads to embed work and health programmes across all Districts and Boroughs
- receiving updates on all District & Borough's local economic strategies and identifying areas of potential joint working
- updating and maintaining a register of all key infrastructure projects across Suffolk and aligning these to the key housing / employment sites that investment in these projects will unlock.

## Regional events

The Suffolk Growth Programme Board has attended a number of regional events over the past two months including:



SGPB supports the No More Delays campaign, a Suffolk Chamber of Commerce led initiative to secure improvements to the A14. We regularly attend the meetings to contribute to and support the case for greater investment in this key strategic route to improve Suffolk's connectivity and future prosperity.



SGPB regularly participates in New Anglia's Building Growth group, a sector led forum that meets to discuss issues; including skills, planning and land markets; affecting the construction sector across the region.



SGPB attended the *Local Energy East Big Strategy Conversation* supporting the development of an Eastern region energy strategy. **Note: this strategy will be going out for consultation in Spring 2018 and a link will be made available through Growth Programme Board's next newsletter.**

Suffolk System Working Group is a Suffolk wide officer group chaired by Arthur Charvonia. Meeting quarterly the group works to identify improvements to our ways of working in order to deliver service improvements and more efficient and effective working relationships. Recent work has included ensuring alignment between work programmes for inclusive growth and health / well-being. In particular the GPB is working to ensure our work programme aligns with that put forward in the Annual Public Health Report (APHR), a copy of which can be found here:

<https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jspa/reports/annual-public-health-report>

SGPB will provide officer support to Members as they establish a sub national transport body across the Eastern region of England. *Transport East*, is a member and LEP led group that will develop a regional transport strategy and lobby Government for improvements to and investment in our networks. **Note: the first meeting of Transport East is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> March and feedback from this session will be included in our next newsletter.**

## Our outcomes

Our work programme is designed to contribute to the following growth outcomes:

**Secure investment to deliver infrastructure that will enable development to the longer term benefit of Suffolk's communities and businesses**

**Create a consistent, efficient, and transparent approach to planning to improve land supply**



**Make Suffolk an optimal location for commercial innovation, investment, and business expansion**

**Meet clearly identified skills, employment and economic development needs**

**Deliver the homes that Suffolk needs to match current and future demand.**

**Operate system wide approach to funding and finance supporting place based initiatives over the medium and long term**

## Growth Programme Board Staff & Representatives

Listed below are the organisations and individuals on Growth Programme Board. Please contact any of these representatives to find out more about the role and work of GPB and understand how our work aligns with that of your team / organisation.

**Chair:** Stephen Baker, Chief Executive East Suffolk Councils, Growth Lead for Suffolk Authorities

**Growth Programme Partnership Manager:** Karen Chapman

**Babergh Mid Suffolk District Councils:** Tom Barker, Assistant Director Planning for Growth; Phil Isbell, Corporate Manager Growth & Sustainable Planning

**East Suffolk Councils:** Philip Ridley, Head of Planning / Paul Wood, Head of Economic Development

**Ipswich Borough Council:** Martyn Fulcher, Head of Development; Michelle Gordon, Economic Development Project Manager

**New Anglia Local Economic Partnership:** Chris Starkie, Chief Executive Officer

**Suffolk Chamber of Commerce:** Nick Burfield, Director of Policy

**Suffolk County Council:** Sue Roper, Assistant Director Strategic Development / John Pitchford, Head of Planning / Jai Raithatha, Head of Economic Development; Andrea Wood, Head of Skills

**Suffolk Housing Board:** to be confirmed

**University of Suffolk:** Tim Greenacre, Registrar

**West Suffolk Councils:** Julie Baird, Assistant Director, Growth / Andrea Mayley, Head of Service, Economic Development

**Greater Cambridgeshire Greater Peterborough Local Economic Partnership** and **Suffolk Constabulary** have an open invitation to attend all meetings of SGGB.

**OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED MAY / JUNE 2018**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Karen Chapman, Growth Programme Partnership Manager:  
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